

REMARKS

Claims 1-3 and 5-6, as amended, remain herein. Claim 7 has been added.

1. Claims 1-6 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) over Shaie U.S. Patent 6,888,724.

Shaie discloses a circuit board 4 and a cover 7 with an opening 71. Shaie does not disclose a main cover having at least one opening formed in the planar portion thereof in opposed relation to the electronic component to prevent interference with the electronic component, as in applicants' claim 1. Unlike applicant's claim 1 which permits the electronic component to extend into an opening in the main cover while still being covered by the plate member, the opening in Shaie completely covers the electronic component (see Fig. 3); it does not prevent interference with the electronic component, rather it provides a space for lid 8.

Also, Shaie does not disclose a plate member having an outer surface located at substantially the same level as an outer surface of the main cover, the plate member having a smaller thickness than the planar portion of the main cover, as in applicants' claim 1.

Applicant's thinner plate permits an electronic component to extend into the main cover while still being protected by the thinner plate member. But Shaie discloses no such plate member.

For the foregoing reasons, Shaie does not disclose every element of applicants' independent claim 1, and reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection are respectfully requested. Since claims 2, 3, 5 and 6 depend from claim 1, they, too, are not anticipated by Shaie.

In addition, regarding applicants' claim 2, Shaie discloses another opening 32, but not another opening in the cover member covering the main cover to prevent interference with the electronic component, and closed with another plate member, as in applicants' claim 2. The

opening 32 in Shaie has no plate member. Thus, applicants' claim 2 is not anticipated by Shaie.

Furthermore, applicants' claim 3 is not anticipated by Shaie because Shaie does not disclose the main cover and the cover member each having a step provided in an outer surface portion thereof around the opening with a depth substantially equal to the thickness of the plate member. The housing 3 in Shaie has no such opening with a step equal to the thickness of a plate member.

Shaie does not disclose all the elements of any of applicants' claims 1-3 and 5-7, thus no claims are anticipated by Shaie. For the foregoing reasons, all claims 1-3 and 5-7 are now fully in condition for allowance, which is respectfully requested.

The PTO is hereby authorized to charge or credit any necessary fees to Deposit Account No. 19-4293. Should the Examiner deem that any further amendments would be desirable in placing this application in even better condition for issue, he is invited to telephone Applicants' undersigned representative.

Respectfully submitted,

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